

The right to be secure in our papers and effects is clearly defined in the US Constitution. When the Bill of Rights was written, there was no electronic communication, so the phrase "papers and effects" has consistently been applied by the courts to telegrams, cables, telephone calls and faxes. A search warrant is the proper method of seeking information in connection with a law enforcement investigation, whether the medium of information is paper or other electronic "effects." The right of privacy must be protected and preserved in order to protect our personal and communal security as people living in a democracy under the rule of law.